

REMARKS

Claims 1, 4-8, 13-15, 17-21, 23, 27-29, 31, 32, 34-38, 40, 42-44, 46, 47, 49-53, 56-58, 60-61 and 63-67 are amended. Claims 33, 41, 48 and 62 are cancelled. Claims 1-32, 34-40, 42-47, 49-61 and 63-69 are pending.

In claim 1, most, if not all, amendments are for clarification purposes only and not intended to limit the scope of the claim in any way.

The amendments to claims 4 – 8, 13 – 15, 17 – 21 and 23 are for clarification purposes only and not intended to limit the scope of these claims in any way.

Claim 2 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112. Claim 2 is amended, in light of the remarks of the Office Action, to more clearly define the invention. Reconsideration of the rejection of claim 2 under 35 U.S.C. §112 is respectfully requested.

Claims 33, 48, and 62 are objected to as being substantial duplicates of other pending claims. To facilitate prosecution, claims 33, 38 and 62 are cancelled.

Claims 1-69 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,578,066 to Logan et al. (“Logan”). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

In Logan, when a user desires a DNS lookup, the user sends a request to a switch and the switch performs both the DNS lookup and an ordering of resultant IP addresses. See, e.g.,

Column 3, lines 8-25; Column 5, lines 46-59. This means that a user is required to replace an existing authoritative DNS with a new authoritative DNS, if ordering of IP addresses is desired. In contrast, the invention as described in the present application enables users to continue with existing systems and, if desired, add on a device to handle ordering of host IP addresses.

Thus, in Logan there is no load balancing switch configured as a proxy to an authoritative domain name system server, the load balancing switch arranging addresses from an authoritative DNS server - as claimed in independent claims 1 and 14.

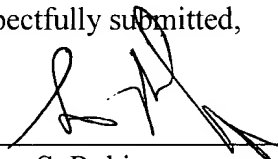
Nor is there any process in Logan which includes the steps of receiving a request at a load balancing switch, forwarding the request to an authoritative domain name system server distinct from the load balancing switch, identifying at the authoritative domain name system server one or more of the plurality of host servers and ordering the one or more host servers at the load balancing switch - as recited in claim 27.

Similarly, there is no system in Logan which includes a distinct means for identifying and means for ordering as recited in claim 42. Finally, there is no computer readable code which implements a method that forwards a request to an authoritative domain name system server and which orders any response from the authoritative domain name system server - as recited in independent claim 56.

Therefore, it is asserted that independent claims 1, 14, 27, 42 and 56 are patentable over Logan. Claims 2-13, 15-26, 28-32, 34-40, 43-47, 49-55, 57-61, and 63-69 are dependent upon

claims 1, 14, 27, 42 and 56 respectively and include additional limitations which, in combination with the limitations of claims 1, 14, 27, 42 and 56 are also neither disclosed nor suggested in Logan. It is asserted that these claims are patentable as well. Reconsideration of the rejection of claims 1-32, 34-40, 42-47, 49-61 and 63-69 is respectfully requested in light of the remarks above.

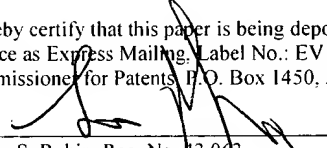
Respectfully submitted,



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